

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to the present Reply, claims 1-39 were pending in the present application. In this response, Applicant has amended claims 5, 24, and 36, and cancelled claims 1-4, 6-23, 27, 32, 34-35, and 37-39. A continuation application has been filed with a preliminary amendment containing the subject matter of these claims. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

At the outset, it is noted that claims 25-26, 28-31, 33, and 36 stand allowed. (Claim 36 was amended, however, to correct a typographical error. (No new matter was added via this amendment, nor subject matter changed in any way.)

In the Final Rejection of April 26, 2006, the Examiner indicated that Claims 5, 24, and 37-39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. With respect to the objected-to dependent claims, Applicant has amended each to incorporate the subject matter from the base claim(s). Claims 37-39 were cancelled and the subject matter incorporated into newly presented claims 40 - 45.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a complete reply has been made to the outstanding Advisory Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 26, 2006

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